

40,000 U.S. Men In Hospitals in France Alone

Many Sickness and Accident Cases, Besides Wounded, Maj. Pierce Tells Tribune

New Red Cross Plans

Will Furnish Many Things for Refugees, but Won't Try to Rebuild Villages

New York Tribune Special Cable Service

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PARIS, Dec. 21.—Many departments of the American Red Cross are closing down automatically, said Major Pierce, at American Red Cross headquarters to-day.

"In some of our departments," he said, "our hospitalization work was always relatively small, and we are withdrawing from this very rapidly, as we were generally strategically located and there is no longer any need for this department. There still are between thirty and forty thousand American soldiers in the hospitals in France alone. These, in addition to the wounded, include many cases of sickness, pneumonia and influenza, as well as a large number of accident cases. When these hospitals close down, in due course, that will be the last of the spectacular part of our work."

Not Rebuild Villages

Whittlesey Relates How Aronne Hero Met Death

Lieutenant Colonel Whittlesey, commander of the famous "Lost Battalion" of the Argonne Forest, which held off the wrecker villages and similar work, and we have never done any of this. Before the March offensive we supplied large quantities of tarred paper to cover gables in broken roofs, and gave iron kitchen pots and perhaps half a dozen chickens to ruined peasants, and in extreme cases a cow.

"What we have done is to establish French government now is to establish six big warehouses in devastated districts between Sedan and Lille, stocked with clothes, food and such household utensils as we can get, such as stoves and materials for temporary repairs of windows, glass, or oilled paper, if we can get glass. Some of these things are difficult to get here, but they are making plenty of stoves, for instance, in England, and we hope to get a little British support in this work."

"The value of these stocks will be anywhere from \$9,000,000 to \$15,000,000. We are not only going to distribute these ourselves but they will be distributed by American Red Cross committees, which have been authorized by the French government to go into devastated regions and aid the people coming back to their homes. These societies will requisition on us, and we will issue stocks to them, retaining only such supervision as to insure that everybody gets a square deal."

Approved by Tardieu

"This scheme has been taken in hand after discussion with the ministry for liberated districts. André Tardieu has given it enthusiastic approval. With this plan in view we are withdrawing on January 1 all dogs and wagons in twenty-seven of the 100 districts of French departments. We have told them to hold on to all the supplies not vitally needed by refugees in their parts of France in order to transfer them for the benefit of sufferers in devastated regions."

"Red Cross workers are still coming to France from America, but only in numbers sufficient to replace those going home after six months of service here."

"Our work for the benefit of children, so far as it is educational, will continue for some time. The effects of American help in this direction are going to be permanent, because we have trained a good many French people in this work. The tuberculosis work will be continued by the Rockefeller Foundation, and we very likely shall retire from that."

"Red Cross work before the war was one kind of work only. Our war council will now disappear and the central administration will go back into the hands of Mr. Warin and those who headed it in Washington before the war. The permanent organization in France in the future will be merely a distinct chapter."

Cantini Work Continues

"So far as the troops are concerned, we shall continue our cantine work on the lines of communication. At the ports of Le Havre, St. Malo and Brest, where we already have opened big cantines, where the men going home can get socks, sweaters, razor blades, tooth brushes and other things they need for ocean trips."

"In Paris we are opening seven large hotels for American soldiers and sailors. These have been located beside or close to the principal railway stations. Each will have at least fifty beds and a mess room for meals going through Paris. These include the Hotel du Louvre, in the centre of the city, which previously was a hotel for officers."

"O. O. Beemer, manager of the McAlpin and the Waldorf-Astoria, is giving the American Red Cross the benefit of his wide experience in fitting up and running these hotels, which we are finding invaluable."

Admiralty Praises American Fleet for Work Abroad

New York Tribune Washington Bureau

WASHINGTON, Dec. 22.—The distinguished service performed by the American overseas fleet in cooperation with the British has won the official recognition of the British Admiralty. Secretary of the Navy Daniels to-day announced in making public a dispatch received from Admiral Sims. Special mention is made of the high state of efficiency of the squadrons under Rear Admirals Hugh Rodman and J. S. Straus.

"At the meeting of the Board of Admiralty I was directed by a member of the board to forward to you the attached message expressive of the board's admiration of the work done by the forces under Rear Admiral Rodman and Rear Admiral Straus and of their appreciation of the spirit of helpfulness and comradeship which has existed throughout between these forces and the British naval forces."

Admiral Sims wired in forwarding the following message:

"On the occasion of the departure

of the squadrons of United States battleships which has for a year and a half served in British waters as the Sixth Battle Squadron of the Grand Fleet and has shared in all the fleet's activities, the Board of Admiralty desired to express to Admiral W. S. Sims, United States navy, as commander of the United States naval forces operating in European waters,

their sense of pride so magnificent

that a force should have been associated with the Grand Fleet under the orders of the British commander in chief and their intense satisfaction that this association had proved so intimate and harmonious.

The board begs that the force commander will transmit to Rear Admiral Sir Reginald Troubridge congratulations on the high state of efficiency of the squadron under his command, and its warm thanks for the distinguished service which he has rendered to the Allied cause.

The board also understands that the United States naval mine force will shortly be leaving for home, and it would be grateful if the force commander would forward to Rear Admiral Sir Reginald Troubridge congratulations on the high state of efficiency of the force which has taken so energetic and valuable a part in the mining operations in the North Sea and with which all the British forces that have been brought into association with it have enjoyed such cordial relations.

"SECRETARY OF THE ADMIRALTY.

Lieutenant Who Married

Nurse Is Ordered Home

WITH THE AMERICAN ARMY OF OCCUPATION, Friday, Dec. 26. By The Associated Press.

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